

CLAIMS

1. A method of linking a digital photographic imaging service requester to a service provider selected from a plurality of different service providers, comprising:

- g) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of services, each service associated with at least one of said plurality of different service providers;
- h) selecting of a service by the service requester to be provided with respect to a digital image;
- i) automatically providing the requester with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on a criterion;
- j) said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- k) providing a request for a desired service to the selected service provider; and
- l) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the criterion comprises a location of a designated recipient.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the criterion is selected from one of the following:

- Brand
- Cost of service
- Specific Product characteristics
- Delivery time
- Delivery method
- Delivery reach
- Specific provider characteristics
- Access time
- Ability to ship to specific location.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said automatically providing of said list is accomplished through the use of a locator service.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said criterion is a dynamic criterion.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said dynamic criterion comprises price.

7. The method according to claim 6 wherein said dynamic criterion is set for a predetermined period of time.

8. The method according to claim 5 wherein said dynamic criterion comprises the work flow capacity of the provider.

9. The method according to claim 5 wherein said dynamic criterion is automatically adjusted based on predetermined criterion.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list further comprises obtaining a subset of providers from said list based a second criterion.

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said criterion is directly associated with the digital image.

12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said second criterion comprises one of the following:

- least expensive
- closest.

13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the service provider is positioned on the display screen of imaging client according to a business criteria.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based on the amount paid by the service provider to be on said service directory.

15. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based a contract.

16. A method according to claim 13 wherein said business criteria is based the image capture device.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said image capture device comprises a digital camera.

18. A method according to claim 17 wherein image capture device is programmed at the time of purchase.

19. A method according to claim 1 wherein a kiosk is used to access the service provider.

20. A system for providing imaging services over a communications network, including:

- f) a first device having a user interface for receiving commands from a user and a network interface,
- g) a plurality of different service providers connected to said communication network,
- h) a computer having a network interface for communication to said first device over said communication network, wherein said computer having a services directory having entries for a plurality of services, at least one service is associated with said plurality of different service providers, each

of said plurality of different service providers having associated information,

- i) wherein the user, using said first device, selects a service,
- j) said computer automatically provides a list of at least one of said plurality of different service providers based on a criterion using said associated information,
- k) said selected service provider providing said requested service.

21. A computer software product for linking a digital photographic imaging service requester to a service provider selected from a plurality of service providers, said computer software program will when loaded on to a computer will cause the computer to do the following steps:

- a) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of services, each service associated with at least one of said plurality of different service providers;
- b) selecting of a service by the service requester to be provided with respect to a digital image;
- c) automatically providing the requester with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on a criterion;
- d) said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- e) providing a request for a desired service to the selected service provider,
- f) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.

22. A method of linking a digital photographic imaging service requester to a service provider selected from a plurality of different service providers that are registered in a member system, comprising:

- a) providing a services directory which includes entries for a plurality of services, each service associated with at least one of said plurality of different service providers;

- b) selecting of a service by the service requester to be provided with respect to a digital image;
- c) automatically providing the requester with a list of one or more of said plurality of different service providers based on a criterion;
- d) said requester selecting one of said plurality of different service providers from said list;
- e) providing a request for a desired service to the selected service provider; and
- f) providing of said desired service by said selected service provider.